

March 30, 1969

Capt. K.W. Wade
Deputy Chief of Information
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Captain Wade,

C Your nonresponsive letter of March 19 is not factual, not acceptable.

O When the founding fathers and subsequent Congresses established Executive Departments and passed certain law, they did not envision the appointment of highly-staffed offices whose purposes in life were to exist to give the President practise in applying diapers.

P Those questions I addressed to the Commanding Office of the Naval Medical Center were properly addressed to him. They cannot properly be addressed to other agencies of the government, as you should very well know.

Y If you know so little about that of which you write that you do not know that the autopsy examination was conducted by the Navy and no other agency, that the Navy has the records of who was there, that the Navy drafted the regulations that were then in force and still apply, and that Navy regulations require the Navy to have kept a complete file on everything that transpired, then, sir, please accept my assurances that these things are fact. If you do not know that Congress enacted a "Freedom of Information" law, I offer this assurance also, together with the interpretation that it provides the military no more right to withhold information than any other part of the government, and that no part can any more, legally, suppress that which is merely embarrassing.

If there is any question I directed to the hospital that is improper or that asks what is improperly asked, please specify this. In the absence of such specification, I expect a reasonable response to my letter, not the kinds of answers the Navy has prepared for such minor incidents as those involving the Turner Joy and the Pueblo. You and I well know I asked for no secrets, only what the public is entitled to know, what writers certainly must know in a country which even dares pretense of freedom.

I would hope the Navy would not want to further soil itself with direct participation in those disgraceful suppressions and misrepresentations that have come to be accepted as normal when an American President is murdered. If you are concerned about the Navy's public relations, I suggest you interest yourself in this matter promptly. If you fail to make meaningful response, I will publish the letters in the book in question and by whatever other means may be available to me. In the past, these have reached large numbers of people.

Disgustedly,

Harold Weisberg